



**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Application must be filled out online and  
printed or completed in blue or black ink only.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT APPLICATION**

NAME: Andrew Riddaugh

FSU ID#: 5894371007319935

FSU E-mail: amr12n@my.fsu.edu

PHONE: 352-999-0876

MAILING ADDRESS: 318 S Copleand St Tallahassee Fl

ZIP CODE: 32304

MAJOR: Political Science

CLASSIFICATION: Junior

**POSITION APPLYING FOR**

EXECUTIVE: OGA Director

LEGISLATIVE:

JUDICIAL:

OTHER:

If applying for a paid position, all payroll documents must be presented with the application. ( Driver License, Social Security Card or copy, Name of Bank, Banking Account Number, Bank Routing Number, and Bank Phone Number)

Previous Student Government Experience:  
Senior Class Vice President

**FSU ACTIVITIES:**

SAA Leadership Council, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity,

**REASON FOR APPLYING:**

I beleive that the students voice needs to be heard, it is the responcability of SGA to provide this service. I have spent the last 3 years serving in diffrent aspects of state level government. I beleive that because of this experiance that I am the most qualified individual to represent the students voice at the state and national level.

ARE YOU CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY FSU OR ANY OTHER STATE AGENCY YES ☐ NO ☒

IF YES: NAME OF DEPARTMENT / AGENCY:

PLEASE LIST AT LEAST THREE REFERENCES:

FULL NAME: Andrew Forst

E-mail: Atf11c@my.fsu.edu PHONE NUMBER: 772-919-2343

FULL NAME: Senator Wilton Simpson

E-mail: Simpson.Wilton.Web@PHONE NUMBER: 850-487-5018

FULL NAME: Emily McGuiness

E-mail: ecm12d@my.fsu.edu PHONE NUMBER: 727-741-7975

I hereby authorize Florida State University Student Senate to confirm with the University Registrar only that I am presently enrolled as a degree seeking student and maintain a 2.0 (3.0 Graduate Student) or for Law Student as average of 67 or higher.

Upon hire, I hereby authorize Florida State University Student Government Association to use my contact information on the SGA website.

**THE FOLLOWING IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

APPLICATION NUMBER:

PAID: YES ☒ NO ☐

GPA CHECKED: ☒

APP. DATE

4/14/15

M. Duhon  
4-14-15

# **Andrew Riddaugh**

## **Office of Governmental Affairs**

### **Director**

### **Application**



1. Since my freshman fall here at Florida State University, I have had a strong passion for participating in the government and the activities associated with it. Since that first fall I have continuously served the citizens of this great state through a wide variety of internships. With each experience I've been able to grow as a leader and a politician. Through these experiences I have honed my skills in constituent relations, public policy, public speaking, along with growing relationships with many public servants including top party members and executive positions in the Scott administration. With the opening of the Director of Office of Governmental Affairs, I believe that my time has come to take all of these experiences and connections that I have created over the past 3 and use them to help represent the needs of my fellow students and the needs of the University on not only a state but national level. I am passionate about helping people, especially my fellow students, to improve their lives in any way that I can. I believe that if I served within this position I would be able to help FSU students by advocating lower education costs and improved educational settings so that every student will graduate with the very best education offered in this state.

2. I strongly believe that my past experiences will greatly benefit my peers and the Student Government Association. This position requires someone with expansive knowledge of the legislative process and proceedings, and should be fulfilled by someone that has spent considerable time at the capitol fully immersing himself or herself in legislation. I believe that my experience on the hill will make me a crucial asset when it comes to monitoring and determining if bills could potentially affect the students or the University as a whole. If a bill does affect the University I also have the knowledge to effectively lobby and draft proper amendments that can address said issues.

3. I have had the opportunity to be involved within politics from an early age. My senior year of high school I had the opportunity to work with the former Secretary of State, Kurt Browning, and Senator Wilton Simpson on their campaigns. That summer I spent every day helping distribute information and coordinating events. Both of these internships have taught me to stand up for what I believe is right when dealing with constituents and other dignitaries and how to coordinate multiple events with various groups of people. From there, I had the opportunity to learn the party side of politics through my internship at the Republican Party of Florida. This taught me the art of dealing with a constituents needs as well as recording and keeping tabs on multiple issues occurring at the same time. This was a wonderful, enriching experience and it improved my multi-tasking and organizational skills that would be needed for the Director of OGA position.

Over the past year I have been granted with three major opportunities at the local, state, and national level that directly relate to my goals if selected as Director of OGA. The first was being the lead intern for the Pam Bondi for Attorney General campaign. This experience truly showed me what it meant to serve in government and to hold a major position. I had the pleasure to spend the summer and fall

assisting General Bondi and the rest of her staff as they traveled across the state, helping her attend to the issues of her constituents while also being able to understand the reasoning behind certain issues. Being the lead intern for a state-wide campaign meant constantly being in communication with different associates and having to coordinate several events all at the same time.

My second major experience this past year has been as a legislative aid for the Lewis Longman and Walker lobbying firm. This experience has taught me how to proficiently draft legislation, amend bills and dissect what a bill is truly trying to accomplish. This past position will contribute to my success as OGA Director as both roles concern many of same principles. I learned how to effectively lobby Senators and Representatives on varying issues. This is crucial because there are certain proceedings that take place when lobbying, that unless someone has spent a excessive amount of time learning the process and experiencing actual negotiations, one would never know about and in turn could become detrimental to their cause. I am extremely proud of my achievements in the past few years, but I am constantly looking to challenge myself, improve my skills and learn more.

Over the past couple of months I have gone through the interview process with the office of Senator Marco Rubio, and I have been offered the amazing opportunity to spend the first part of summer 2015 helping establish connections in Washington D.C. This experience will be extremely beneficial because it will allow me to lay the foundations of relations I can build in order to help better represent FSU on a national level while also learning how FSU issues can be better addressed in our nations capitol.

4. The following is the break down of initiatives that I plan on accomplishing given the opportunity to serve as Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, they are broken down per level of government.

### **Local**

The City of Tallahassee should be one of our closest relationships that our OGA has. Cooperation with them is crucial to every aspect of student life and the continued success of our University. I have personally met with Mayor Gillum on several occasions and I would like to continue to meet with him to help the betterment of the students and faculty of this school.

1. Safety - I would like to work with TPD to ensure and increase the safety of our students while off campus. While FSUPD was hailed for its quick response to the tragic events during last November's attack, the department has limited resources and restricted jurisdiction. I would like to work with Chief DeLeo of TPD to ensure that students are adequately protected at all of the off campus housing and local attractions. This includes regular patrols and improved communication between the two departments.

2. Transparency – This is one of the key pillars that I focused on while running for Senior Class Council Vice-President. This is a policy that I would like to continue with if given the opportunity to serve as OGA Director. I would like to establish a monthly town hall meeting open to all students so that they have the ability to better understand the decisions that are being made at the local, state and national level as well as give them the opportunity to voice their opinions to their elected officials.

3. Opportunities - Internships are one of the key things that have helped me gain the crucial hands-on experience needed for this position, and because of this, I would like to help establish the same opportunities for my peers. After talking to some students who work with local government officials I have discovered that it can be somewhat of a grueling task to find opportunities that are readily and easily available for students. I would like to work with all agencies at the local level to make a database with all the internship possibilities and an easy link to access them.

### **State**

The State legislation is one of the most crucial entities to deal with when it comes to funds and rules for our University. Because this is such a crucial institution to lobby and have strong relations with, I would like to establish a conference for all of the OGA Directors from all major public schools in the State of Florida. At this conference the issues of the students can be organized and focused across the board to ensure that the needs of the students are addressed and we are focused on passing the same bills. This would help ensure that the following initiatives are

accomplished and increase communication for more effective lobbying for Florida schools.

1. Budgetary aid from legislation for student body on issues such as sexual assault, drugs, underage drinking, sexual assault prevention, and other major issues that affect collegiate students.
2. STEM loan forgiveness for Public University students who decided to work for the state in accordance to HB 45 and SB 150 (which helps students by diminishing student loans if their first job after graduation includes assistant state attorney, assistant public defender, assistant state wide prosecution) to include students who graduate from a STEM program and then go in to the service of the state. This helps reduce student loans, promote the STEM programs on the University level, and assists students with finding employment after graduation.
3. Eliminate state taxes from tuition fees and other educational expenses.  
With SB 938 looking favorable to pass in this year's legislative agenda, sales tax on textbooks would be eliminated. This is a part of Governor Scott's "Let's Get Back to Work" initiative. To further this initiative, OGA should push for legislation to pass additional bills in order to eliminate taxes from tuition and other educational cost that students encounter. The benefits of eliminated taxes include promoting higher education, allowing for a higher education to be more affordable, and allowing for students to enter the work force with less student debt.
4. Moving FSU from a "Top 10 Veteran Friendly Campus" to the top 5. Being in the top 10 is a great accomplishment but I want Florida State to improve that ranking. We currently sit at the 8th best school according to Military Times, and attract more veterans to attend FSU and to reside in the state of Florida as a whole. USF, which also receives its funding from our legislator, is ranked above us at #5. The only categories in their criteria that USF ranks higher than us on are Academic Support and Student-Faculty ratio, therefore these are the areas we need to focus on improving in order to improve our national recognition.
5. Establishing an Independent Engineering School-  
FSU has long shared an engineering campus with Florida A&M. In order for Florida State to become the most competitive public university, we must establish our independence from Florida A&M. This will show that we are as dedicated to the success of our engineering students as we are to the rest of our students. The popular support is already in place and negotiations can be discussed with Florida A&M University. This initiative will also help attract the top scientists and faculty members from around the nation.



6. Bright futures and Florida Prepaid are both major programs that help hundreds of thousands of students pay for their undergraduate education. However this is not enough, with many careers now requiring education above just an undergraduate degree. Many students now find that they are encountering student loans that they struggle to repay. The solution to this is to better fund the Bright Futures program to have the option for students to apply for extended coverage so that they can help subsidize the cost of the masters, law, or medical school expenses. The second half of this initiative would expand the Florida Prepaid program to allow for parents the option to begin to pre pay for a advanced higher education.

## **National**

### **1. Host 2016 Primary or Presidential debate -**

Florida is the 5<sup>th</sup> state to hold primary elections, which will occur in March. That makes this state crucial to a presidential race. With two of the front runners coming from this great state it only seems appropriate to hold a debate in the capitol. I am currently a summer intern with the Rubio office in Washington D.C. giving me the opportunity to present the idea to the chief of state and the campaign manager. I have had conversations with both campaign managers in the past about internships, thus I have the direct email for the individuals who would arrange a debate. This would provide great publicity for our school and our state on a national level as well as increase voter and issue awareness amongst our students.

2. Establish a connection with all national level congressmen and incorporate them in to the Golden Tribe Lecture series. The Senior Class President and Student Body President, whom I work closely with, both sit on the Board for the Golden Tribe Lecture Series and are two key individuals that make decisions on who is selected. Therefore I could serve as a liaison between the congressmen and the people who are chosen.

3. Implement an effective summer trip to Washington D.C. I would like to consolidate the number of students who attend this trip to save money and increase its overall effectiveness by only selecting the most qualified candidates to speak on behalf of our university. Before the trip, I would plan meetings with the Department of Education, Senators, and other key dignitaries. I will be in Washington D.C. for a portion of the summer and will communicate on behalf of the Executive Branch, our entire SGA and the student's money.

5. The Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs is a role that I have always seen myself fulfilling. My life aspiration is to one-day represent the concerns of the people involving fair market trade. Because of where my interests lie, I believe that if selected to serve the Student Government Association in this capacity, I will have the opportunity to grow as a public speaker, present ideas of the office in a clear and precise manner, challenge my leadership abilities, and continue to expand my knowledge of our political system. I will be challenged by listening to the ideas of the OGA Board of Directors and working with them to figure out the best manner to represent our university while working in coordination with the Student Body President and the student body's opinion. I want to utilize my unique combination of my passion for the betterment of this University and my well-rounded governmental experience to succeed in this position.

6. The pillar of perseverance is the one that I most relate to. The idea of striving through difficult situations in order to achieve the goals and aspirations that one desires is one of the key characteristics of a leader. When dealing with legislation, it can be a very long and drawn out process in order to achieve the goal that is desired by the student body. The legislative process often means early mornings to make the multiple committee meetings, long days of countless meetings with the elected officials and multiple re-drafts of amendments. This is why perseverance is crucial to achieving the agenda that will best benefit the student body and is a characteristic that I possess and can use as the next OGA Director.

Passion and perseverance go hand in hand to me. Passion is the force behind everything I do, it is the reason that I work so hard and that I commit so much time to improving my university and myself. The Legislative process is a long and arduous endeavor that is not for the weak-minded. One must have a deep passion for what they are doing to prevent them from burning out. Every morning I force myself to be up by 7 am so that I may capitalize on the day. I often will commit 8-10 hours a day working on amendments and deals in order to make sure the legislation passes. It is this passion and work ethic that I intend to bring to the OGA office. With this passion, expertise, and work ethic I will lead the office of OGA to achieve more legislative goals and public policy reform to better the student body.

The final pillar of courage is also a vital aspect when dealing with legislators. The director must have the courage to stand up to immense political pressure and tough situations that often come as a result from the vigorous deliberation process. It is crucial for the Director to possess courage because it is their duty to stand up for the best interests of the student body to ensure that their rights are protected at a state and federal level. I know I am capable of best representing the Tabares/Pierre-Louis/McGuinness administrations vision because my values align with these three pillars and I will lead accordingly.



**Andrew McClain Riddaugh**

318 S. Copeland Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304

(352) 999-0876 | [ariddaugh17@gmail.com](mailto:ariddaugh17@gmail.com)

**CAREER OBJECTIVE** - To obtain a full-time position in the government sector where I can use and apply my leadership and organizational skills to accomplish the goals of the agency or the constituents that I represent.

**EDUCATION**

- **Florida State University,** Tallahassee, FL **July 2012 – April 2016**  
*Political Science/Entrepreneurship*
- **Pasco High School,** Dade City, FL **August 2008 – June 2012**  
*Magna Cum Laude* 1,005  
volunteer hours

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

- **Senior Class Vice-President for Florida State University,** Tallahassee, FL **2015-Present**  
*Class Council liaison for University*  
Responsibilities include assisting the President in presiding over meetings, maintaining contact with partner organizations on campus, working with the executive team on task delegation, event planning, and committee relations, and fostering unity, pride, and traditions within the Senior Class.
- **Student Government Association's Office of Governmental Affairs,** **Florida State University** **2015-Present**  
*Board member*  
Provide FSU students with representation and advocacy within the University community and at all levels of government. Special emphasis is placed on monitoring the Florida legislative process, from which the University receives a majority of its funding.
- **Lewis, Longman and Walker, PA,** Tallahassee, FL **2015-Present**  
*Legislative Aide*  
Work as a legislative aide for a legislative lobbying and governmental affairs law firm. Duties include bill research and tracking, speaking on behalf of the firm at committee meetings, conducting research on bill amendments and establishing how amendments will affect the clients.

- **Pam Bondi for Attorney General**, Tallahassee, FL **2015**  
**Campaign Intern**  
Worked in all aspects of the state-wide campaign for the re-election of Attorney General Pam Bondi. Duties included event planning, professional correspondences, and the planning, scheduling, and organizing of field offices and volunteers.
  
- **Republican Party of Florida**, Tallahassee, FL **2013 – Present**  
**Communications Intern**  
Provide support to the Republican Party of Florida by conducting media and issue research, project and event support, and various office tasks such as phone banking, mailing, and database entry.
  
  
- **Delta Tau Delta Fraternity**, Tallahassee, FL **2014**  
**- Present**  
**2014 Philanthropy Chairman**  
Created a philanthropy (The Uncharted Games) at FSU to involve students in a competition designed to raise money for the William J. Rish Park for persons with disabilities.  
**2013 Executive Board Member/House Manager**  
**2013 - 2014**  
Coordinated housing and leasing agreements, oversaw the day to day operations of a private housing establishment, coordinated with contractors and city officials for house projects.
  
- **Kurt Browning – Pasco County Superintendent of Schools**, Dade City FL **2012**  
**District Campaign Volunteer and Organizer**  
Organized volunteers campaigning door-to-door, coordinated the distribution of campaign materials, and assisted with numerous administrative campaign tasks.

#### **FSU Campus Involvement**

Student Alumni Association Leadership Council - Volunteer  
Delta Tau Delta – Executive Member

#### **SKILLS**

Organizing and managing large groups of people, public speaking, managing budgets (up to \$100,000) and leadership and organizational skills.



**SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON**  
18th District

## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Community Affairs *Chair*  
Environmental Preservation and Conservation  
*Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government  
Finance and Tax  
Judiciary  
Transportation

### JOINT COMMITTEES:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee  
Joint Subcommittee on Auditor General Selection

April 13, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The intent of this letter is to recommend Andrew Riddaugh for a position with your office. Having both lived in Dade City, I have known Andrew and his family for many years. He has been a visible, hard-working member of our community and stands out as a leader among his peers. In high school, he participated in our city's youth council and held the position of Chairman his senior year. He was also involved in many community activities and during his four years of high school, he accumulated over 1,000 volunteer hours.

Since he has been at Florida State University, Andrew has sought out numerous leadership opportunities. In his fraternity, as a freshman he became the youngest member to ever hold an executive board position. He also has worked and/or volunteered in a number of government offices and political campaigns. He was elected to serve the Senior Class at FSU as their Vice-President and has taken a special interest in initiating legislative agendas.

Andrew is a very determined and focused young man who has a passion for politics and governmental affairs. He has an exceptional work ethic and is very energetic in everything he does. He has the ability to assess situations and come up with creative solutions while problem-solving.

I feel that Andrew would be a valuable asset to your staff. Please feel free to contact my office with any additional questions at 8850.487.5018.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Simpson".

State Senator Wilton Simpson  
District 18

### REPLY TO

- ☐ 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018
- ☐ Post Office Box 938, Brooksville, Florida 34605
- ☐ Post Office Box 787, New Port Richey, Florida 34655-0787 (727) 816 1120 FAX (888) 263-4821

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore